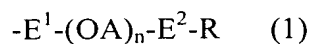


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An allergen inactivating agent comprising a polysaccharide derivative as its effective component, wherein the polysaccharide derivative has a cellulose ether as its backbone, and some or all of hydrogen atoms in the hydroxy group of the polysaccharide derivative are substituted by a group represented by the following general formula (1):



wherein E¹ represents an alkylene containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted with a hydroxy group or an oxo group; n represents a number of 0 to 50; A independently represents an alkylene containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms, the number of A being n; E² represents an ether bond or an oxycarbonyl group; R represents an alkyl group containing 4 to 30 carbon atoms optionally substituted with hydroxy group, a sulfoalkyl group containing 1 to 5 carbon atoms optionally substituted with hydroxy group, or a salt thereof,

wherein the cellulose ether has an average molecular weight of 100,000 to 600,000,
and

said allergen is selected from the group consisting of a plant allergen, an animal allergen, fungi, bacterium, house dust, mite and a pollen allergen.

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 1 wherein the cellulose ether is hydroxyethyl cellulose.

Claims 4-5. (Cancelled)

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 1, wherein the allergen inactivating agent is an aerosol.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) A mask comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 1, wherein the mask comprises ear hangers attached to sheets or the ear hangers are formed in a sheet material and/or the sheets are inserted between the mask and the mouth.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) A sheet comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 1, wherein the sheet is used for a mask, wherein the mask comprises ear hangers attached to the at least one sheet or the ear hangers are formed in a sheet material and/or the sheet a inserted between the mask and the mouth.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic product wherein allergens have been inactivated, the cosmetic product comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 1.

Claims 10-11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 1, wherein n is from 10 to 20.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 1, wherein the cellulose ether has an average molecular weight of 100,000 to 200,000.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 13, wherein n is from 10 to 20.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 13, wherein the allergen inactivating agent is an aerosol.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A mask comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 13, wherein the mask comprises ear hangers attached to sheets or the ear hangers are formed in a sheet material and/or the sheets are inserted between the mask and the mouth.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A sheet comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 13, wherein the sheet is used for a mask, wherein the mask comprises ear hangers attached to sheets or the ear hangers are formed in a sheet material and/or the sheets are inserted between the mask and the mouth.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic product wherein allergens have been inactivated, the cosmetic product comprising an allergen inactivating agent of claim 13.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 13, wherein the cellulose ether is hydroxyethyl cellulose.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 19, wherein n is from 10 to 20.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 3, wherein n is from 10 to 20.

Claim 22. (New) The allergen inactivating agent according to claim 1, wherein said allergen is at least one selected from the group consisting of the animal allergen and house dust.